

CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended) An Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA)-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device comprising:

a fax gateway including,

a storage device ~~for storing~~ to store an e-mail message received from an e-mail sender for transmission to a fax recipient through a packet switching network, the stored e-mail message to be converted to a fax document for transmission thereof to the fax recipient ~~having access to a fax device;~~

a database to store a fax number of the fax recipient where the fax number is to be associated with information corresponding to the e-mail message where the information corresponding to the e-mail message is independent of the fax number; and

at least one fax modem device ~~for transmitting~~ to transmit the fax document to the fax recipient through a public switching network, where ~~in a~~ the fax number designating the fax recipient is to be obtained separately from the e-mail message by associating the information corresponding to the e-mail message with the fax number stored in the database.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 An Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) Internet Network Access/Service Provider device comprising:

a fax gateway including

a storage device for storing an e-mail message received from an e-mail sender for transmission to a fax recipient through a packet switching network, the stored e-mail message to be converted to a fax document for transmission thereof to the fax recipient having access to a fax device, and

at least one fax modem device for transmitting the fax document to the fax recipient through a public switching network, where a fax number designating the fax recipient is obtained separately from the e-mail; and

where the storage device is enabled to store a time-of-day for specifying a range of time during which the fax document is transmitted.

4. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 further comprising An Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) Internet Network Access/Service Provider device comprising:

a fax gateway including

a storage device for storing an e-mail message received from an e-mail sender for transmission to a fax recipient through a packet switching network, the stored e-mail message to be converted to a fax document for transmission thereof to the fax recipient having access to a fax device, and

at least one fax modem device for transmitting the fax document to the fax recipient through a public switching network, where a fax number designating the fax recipient is obtained separately from the e-mail; and

a server device to store the fax number, the fax number associated with the fax device of the fax recipient, the fax number for establishing a call for the transmission of the fax document, the server device to store a time-of-day for specifying a range of time during which the fax document is transmitted.

5. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 ~~2~~ where the storage device is configured to be used to create a fax cover page for transmission thereof to the fax recipient.
6. (Previously presented) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 5 where the e-mail message includes an e-mail address, and the fax cover page includes a sender field extracted from the e-mail address.
7. (Previously presented) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 6 where the ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device assigns an e-mail address to the fax recipient, the e-mail address associated with the fax number, and where the fax cover page includes a destination field extracted from the fax recipient e-mail address.
8. (Previously presented) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 7 where the e-mail message includes a subject field and the ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device is enabled to include the e-mail subject field contents in the fax cover page prior to transmission thereof to the fax recipient.

9. (Currently amended) ~~An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 2 where the storage device is enabled to~~ An Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA)-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device comprising:

a fax gateway including

a storage device to store an e-mail message received from an e-mail sender for transmission to a fax recipient through a packet switching network, the stored e-mail message to be converted to a fax document for transmission thereof to the fax recipient having access to a fax device, and

at least one fax modem device to transmit the fax document to the fax recipient through a public switching network, where a fax number designating the fax recipient is obtained separately from the e-mail; and

where the storage device is enabled to:

store the fax number, the fax number associated with the fax device of the fax recipient, the fax number to be used to establish a call for the transmission of the fax document; and

assign a home directory for storage of e-mail messages directed to the fax recipient and on receipt of the e-mail message is enabled to store the email message within the assigned home directory of the fax recipient.

10. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 2 1 where the fax gateway is coupled to the public switching telephone network.

11. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 2 1 where the fax gateway is coupled to the public switching telephone network through a digital communications link.

12. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 2 1 where the fax gateway is coupled to the packet switching network through a digital communications link.

13. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 2 1 where the storage device is a computer system having a conversion program to convert the e-mail message to a fax document.

14. (Previously presented) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 13 where the storage device is a computer system having an e-mail program for causing storage of the e-mail message.

15. (Previously presented) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 14 where the e-mail program and the conversion program reside externally to the fax gateway.

16. (Currently amended) ~~An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 2 where the fax gateway is enabled to~~ An Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA)-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device comprising:

a fax gateway including

a storage device to store an e-mail message received from an e-mail sender for transmission to a fax recipient through a packet switching network, the stored e-mail message to be converted to a fax document for transmission thereof to the fax recipient having access to a fax device, and

at least one fax modem device to transmit the fax document to the fax recipient through a public switching network, where a fax number designating the fax recipient is obtained separately from the e-mail; and

where the storage device is enabled to:

store the fax number, the fax number associated with the fax device of the fax recipient, the fax number to be used to establish a call for the transmission of the fax document; and

receive a reply fax document from the fax recipient, and is enabled to convert the reply fax document to a reply e-mail message and transmit the reply e-mail message to the e-mail sender.

17. (Currently amended) A method for sending and receiving e-mail messages using a fax device comprising:

receiving an e-mail message through a data communications network from an e-mail sender;

converting the e-mail message into a fax document;

storing a fax number of a fax recipient in a database where the fax number is to be associated with information corresponding to the e-mail message and where the information corresponding to the e-mail message is independent of the fax number;

retrieving the a destination fax number of a fax recipient separate from the e-mail message by associating the information corresponding to the e-mail message with the fax number stored in the database; and

transmitting the fax document to the fax recipient thereby enabling the fax recipient to receive e-mail messages without access to the data communications networking network.

18. (Currently amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 17 further comprising:~~ A method for sending and receiving e-mail messages using a fax device comprising:

receiving an e-mail message through a data communications network from an e-mail sender;

converting the e-mail message into a fax document;

retrieving a destination fax number of a fax recipient separate from the e-mail message;

transmitting the fax document to the fax recipient thereby enabling the fax recipient to receive e-mail messages without access to the data communications network;

receiving a reply from the fax recipient in the form of a reply fax document;

converting the reply fax document to a reply e-mail message; and

transmitting the reply e-mail message through the data communications network.

19. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim ~~47~~ 18 further comprising:

verifying a destination user address of the e-mail message for identifying the fax recipient as being a known user.

20. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 19 further comprising:
on unsuccessful verification of the destination user address, sending a failed message.
21. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium having stored therein computer readable program code comprising instructions, if executed by a processor cause the processor to perform operations comprising for performing the following steps:
receiving an e-mail message, from through a data communications network;
converting the e-mail message into a fax document;
storing a destination fax number of a fax recipient in a database where the fax number is to be associated with information corresponding to the e-mail message and where the information corresponding to the e-mail message is independent of the fax number;
retrieving the a destination fax number ~~of a fax recipient~~ separate from the e-mail message by associating the information corresponding to the e-mail message with the destination fax number; and
transmitting the fax document to the fax recipient thereby enabling the fax recipient to receive e-mail messages without access to the data communications networking network.
22. (Currently amended) A device comprising:
means for receiving an e-mail message, from through a data communications network;
means for converting the e-mail message into a fax document;
means for storing a destination fax number of a fax recipient in a database where the fax number is to be associated with information corresponding to the e-mail message and where the information corresponding to the e-mail message is independent of the fax number;
means for retrieving a the destination fax number ~~of a fax recipient~~ separate from the e-mail message by means for associating the information corresponding to the e-mail message with the destination fax number; and
means for transmitting the fax document to the fax recipient thereby enabling the fax recipient to receive e-mail messages without access to the data communications networking network.

23. (Currently amended) ~~The device of claim 22 further comprising~~ A device comprising:
means for receiving an e-mail message, from through a data communications network;
means for converting the e-mail message into a fax document;
means for retrieving a destination fax number of a fax recipient separate from the e-mail
message;
means for transmitting the fax document to the fax recipient thereby enabling the fax
recipient to receive e-mail messages without access to the data communications network; and
means for receiving a reply from the fax recipient in the form of a reply fax document,
converting the reply fax document to a reply e-mail message and transmitting the reply e-mail
message through the data communications network.
24. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~22~~ 23 further comprising means for verifying a
destination user address for identifying the fax recipient as being a known user.
25. (Canceled) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in
claim 1 where the ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device is enabled to obtain
the fax number based, at least in part, on a look-up of an intended recipient of the e-mail
message.
26. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as
recited in claim ~~1~~ 25 where the information corresponding to the e-mail message~~the intended~~
~~recipient of the e-mail message~~ is identified in a To field of the e-mail message.
27. (Canceled) A method as recited in claim 17 where the retrieving the destination fax
number comprises looking up the destination fax number based, at least in part, on an intended
recipient of the e-mail message.
28. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim ~~17~~ 27 where the information
corresponding to the e-mail message~~the intended recipient of the e-mail message~~ is identified in
a To field of the e-mail message.

29. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 17 where the converting comprises creating a fax title page.

30. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 29 where a From field of the fax title page is derived from a ~~the~~ e-mail address of a ~~the~~ e-mail sender.

31. (New) A method as recited in claim 17 further comprising:
receiving a reply from the fax recipient in the form of a reply fax document;
converting the reply fax document to a reply e-mail message; and
transmitting the reply e-mail message through the data communications network.

32. (New) A method as recited in claim 17 further comprising:
verifying a destination user address of the e-mail message for identifying the fax recipient as being a known user.

33. (New) A method as recited in claim 17 further comprising:
on unsuccessful verification of the destination user address, sending a failed message.